

**St. Mary's Orthodox Church  
(Dormition of the Mother of God)**

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*Sunday June 24, 2018*

Nativity of [Saint John the Baptist](#); [Athanasius Parios](#) of Paros; [Martyred](#) brothers Orentius, Pharnacius, Eros, Firmus, Firminus, Cyriacus, and Longinus, in Georgia; Saint Anthony, [Abbot](#) of Dymisk (Novgorod) (see also [January 17](#)); Saint Michael, Great Prince of Tver; New-Martyr Panagiotis of Caesaria in Cappadocia; [Righteous](#) Youths James and John of Meniugi; Saint Germoe, [Bishop](#) of Germoe, Cornwall; [synaxis](#) of Righteous [Zachariah](#) and [Elizabeth](#), parents of Saint John the Forerunner; translation of the [relics](#) of Saint [John the New of Suceava](#)

*Services for the week of June 24*

Thursday, June 28: 6:30 pm Vigil for the Feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul  
Friday, June 29: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul  
Saturday, June 30: 6:00 pm Great Vespers

## Parish News

**WELCOME:** to all of our guests today. We are so glad that you have come to enjoy our Orthodox worship. We invite you to come for coffee and sweets in our church hall and to enjoy fellowship with us. May God bless you!

**OFFERINGS:** June 17: \$1355.00

**WEDDING SHOWER:** On July 8, there will be a wedding shower for Emily and Jon at the Coffee Hour following Liturgy. They are registered at Wal Mart and Amazon. Please attend and enjoy! Remember, their wedding is on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**RANDY BAILEY** has come through surgery and is home! He might have been kept for 4 or 5 days, but the doctors allowed him to recuperate where he is most comfortable. Please remember him and his wife, Ranae in your prayers. We are more than glad to see him get back home so soon!

## THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE FORERUNNER AND BAPTIZER OF THE LORD

Six months before his appearance in Nazareth to the All-holy Virgin Mary, the great archangel of God, Gabriel appeared to Zacharias the high priest in the Temple at Jerusalem. Before he announced the miraculous conception to the unwed virgin [Mary], the archangel announced the miraculous conception to the childless old woman [Elizabeth]. Zacharias did not immediately believe the words of the herald of God and this is why his tongue was tied with dumbness and remained as such until eight days after the birth of John. On that day, the relatives of Zacharias and Elizabeth gathered for the young child's circumcision and for the sake of giving him a name. When they asked the father what name he wishes to give to his son and being dumb, he wrote on a tablet: "John." At that moment his tongue became loosed and he began to speak. The home of Zacharias was on the heights between Bethlehem and Hebron. The news of the appearance of the angel of God to Zacharias was spread throughout all of Israel, as well as of his dumbness and the loosening of his tongue at thee moment when he wrote the name "John." The news concerning this even reached Herod. Therefore, when Herod sent soldiers to slay the children throughout Bethlehem, he directed men to the hilly dwelling place of the family of Zacharias to kill John also. However, Elizabeth promptly hid the child. Enraged, at this King Herod sent his executioners to Zacharias in the Temple to slay him (for it happened that it was Zacharias' turn again to serve in the Temple of Jerusalem). Zacharias was slain between the court and the temple and his blood coagulated and petrified on the stone pavers and remained a perpetual witness against Herod. Elizabeth hid with the child in a cave where she died soon after. The young child John remained in the wilderness alone under the care of God and God's angels.



